

**SCOPING NOTICE**  
**for**  
**EnCana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc.**  
**PAPPY DRAW EXPLORATORY COALBED NATURAL GAS PROJECT**

**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Lander Field Office**  
**December 2007**

**Background**

EnCana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc. (EnCana) of Denver, Colorado has submitted a proposal to develop a pilot project of sixteen (16) exploratory coalbed natural gas (CBNG) wells to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lander Field Office. This notice is to inform the public that the BLM Lander Field Office will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed project.

The proposed project is located approximately 70 miles southeast of Lander in northeast Sweetwater County and southeast Fremont County, Wyoming, and within the administrative boundary of the BLM's Lander Field Office.

**Description of Proposed Project**

EnCana proposes to develop an exploratory CBNG pilot project consisting of drilling, completing, testing and operating a total of 16 wells and three water injection wells. The proposed project area would be subdivided into three sub-groups, Pappy Draw, East Pappy Draw, and North Pappy Draw Units. The wells proposed for each unit would be accessed from existing and new roads. A water disposal well would be drilled in each unit to accept water collected from the CBNG wells.

The proposed number, spacing, and arrangement of the wells were designed to provide data necessary to evaluate the quantity of methane in the coal, permeability of the coal, productivity of the coal, quality of the coal and water, the quantity of water, and the de-watering characteristic of the coal.

EnCana proposes to develop field infrastructure to produce the CBNG wells concurrently with the drilling and completion of the proposed wells. The project construction activities would begin with the drilling and completion of produced water disposal injection wells, followed by drilling and completion of gas wells and other infrastructure. Overhead distribution lines would be included to power the facilities.

The production infrastructure would include entrenched facility supply lines running parallel to project roads, and centralized gathering, production, metering and compression facilities. De-watering would be driven by pumping units or progressive cavity pumps, initially driven by generators set for individual wells until electric power can be provided. Three-phase distribution lines would connect wells and compressor facilities with the existing electrical transmission and

distribution system in the area. Electrical power would be routed on overhead lines. Pipelines would route the produced gas to a high pressure compressor station adjacent to an existing 24-inch transmission pipeline.

It is estimated that the exploratory wells, roads, and all other project facilities would result in a potential maximum initial surface disturbance of approximately 300 acres. The construction period is expected to last three to six months. Should the pilot prove non-commercial gas reserves under current conditions and technologies, EnCana would discontinue the project and the disturbed areas would be reclaimed to BLM standards.

## **IDENTIFIED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

The following issues and concerns have been identified. This list is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for further public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

- Potential effects to wildlife habitat within the analysis area, including big game, raptors, sage grouse, white-tailed prairie dog, black-footed ferret, and mountain plover.
- Possible effects to listed, proposed, or threatened and endangered plant and animal species.
- Potential effects to wetlands and riparian habitat.
- Potential effects to cultural and historical values within the project area.
- Possible effects to wild horses.
- Possible effects to surface and groundwater resources.
- Potential effects to air quality due to increased traffic, emissions, production activities and associated effects on existing county, state, and BLM roads.
- Reclamation of disturbed areas and control of noxious weeds.
- Cumulative effects of the proposed project when combined with ongoing conventional gas drilling and development.
- The differences between development of conventional natural gas and CBNG.
- Possible effects to rangelands.
- Possible effects to commercial outfitters use.
- Possible effects to recreational activities.
- Possible effects to visual resources.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed or mitigated, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

The BLM can best use comments and resource information if submitted before the close of the public scoping period (December 10, 2007 – January 10, 2008). Please submit written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management  
Lander Field Office (c/o Chris Krassin)  
PO Box 589  
1335 Main Street  
Lander, WY 82520

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: [lander\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:lander_wymail@blm.gov)

Please note that comments, names, email addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, email address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you require additional information regarding this project, please contact Chris Krassin at the above email or street address or phone 307-332-8452.